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c. 1963/05/21

Governor:

The Soviet cutback could have two purposes not noted here:

1. they have found assistance to the neutralists an acute embarrassment in their relations with the Chinese and North Vietnamese.

2. rather than putting "full responsibility for what happens" on the Viet Minh and Chinese, they want to put it on us.

The Soviet move would lay the groundwork for an all-out campaign against Air America and our present involvement.

As for the "one-shot" effort, I think it would put us in a most disadvantageous posture. At the least, it should only be in response to an appeal for same by the RLG and Souvanna. If one does this kind of thing once, he has to be ready to do it again--and to do more if necessary.

Bombing of "areas where Viet Minh forces are believed to be" could get us into the same old business of killing at random.

In short, a move like this is likely to raise more problems than it solves.

Bill Jorden

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Y DATE 12/17/86
EXT DATE
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EXEMPTIONS EO 12356 Sec. 3(a)(3),(5)

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